

County Corridors

A Newsletter for Tompkins County Employees and Retirees

June 2006

Volume 18, Number 2

County Responds to Employee Concerns

Pilot Project - FREE Bus Passes For ALL County Employees
By Anita Fitzpatrick, Personnel Commissioner

In partnership with TCAT, individuals from the Legislature, Personnel, Administration, Finance, and Planning departments have worked to establish a pilot project to determine the feasibility of providing free TCAT bus passes to all County employees.

On June 1, 2006, Tompkins County implemented a four-month pilot project to provide free bus passes to ALL County employees. The pilot project has a maximum window from June 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006. Employees can request a bus pass anytime during the pilot project and use it until September 30, 2006. The pilot project will be evaluated in September to determine if the pilot will be extended beyond September 30th.

Any interested employee may obtain a bus pass application from the Personnel Department's website, <http://www.tompkins-co.org/personnel/>. Completed applications can be sent to us via inter-office mail or fax to 274-5401. Bus passes can be picked up from the Personnel office located on the 1st Floor of the Old Jail, 125 East Court Street in the City of Ithaca.

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Changes @ the Department of Social Services

By Edie Spaulding, DSS

Many employees at the Department of Social Services are on the move and some are coming back from retirement. The Department of Social Services would like to welcome back Nancy Krebs and Randy Good who have come back to fill in for staff that are out on medical leave. Additionally DSS has experienced so much growth that Division Coordinator positions have been created throughout the department. Rebecca Bush will be pleased since this has been her aspiration for sometime.

The Division Coordinators are:

- Jean Brockway in Medicaid
- David Chase in Employment
- Tricia Eth promoted to Temporary Assistance (Tricia retiring September 2006)
- Cindy Cummings in Special Services
- Lee Carter moved to Supervisor Employment Hearings
- Jacalyn Lent promoted to Div. Coordinator Trainee for Temporary Assistance
- Linda Eva going to Supervisor in Temporary Assistance
- Dawn Arthur going to HEAP Supervisor position
- Karen Keefer going to Employment



Patricia Carey, DSS Commissioner

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Airport Celebrates 50 Years of County Ownership

By Robert Nicholas, Airport Manager

On July 1, 1956, Cornell University conveyed 23 separate parcels to Tompkins County, which collectively made up the East Hill Airport. The airport then became the Tompkins County Airport, now known as the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport.

On July 1, 2006, we mark the 50th anniversary of that purchase. Charles H. Newman, the County Attorney at the time, reviewed the title certification. The sale was subject to the land being used as a public airport only, with all existing leases, rights of way, utility easements and building ownership continuing.

Mohawk Airlines held most of the leases and owned most of the buildings. A farmer by the name of Robert Criss was allowed to farm 70 acres of land northeast of the runway. This lessee agreed "not to plant or cultivate any of the lands closer than 150 feet from the center line of the hard surface portion of the runway....," and further agreed "not to plant any crops on any of the leased property which will exceed 5 feet in height."



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A Note from the County Administrator

Comings and goings in Administration

Following an exhaustive (and often exhausting) search, I am excited to announce the appointment of two Deputy County Administrators. Paula E. F. Younger will lead the county's organizational development efforts and Shawn Martel-Moore will add emergency preparedness, management cabinets, and data sharing to her current duties. I believe that with the skills and talents of these two dynamic people, we will effectively and powerfully face the challenges and benefit from the opportunities that lie ahead.

Paula has more than 17 years of experience working with federal, state, and local governments, as well as community-based organizations in developing strategies for enhancing service delivery and overall program effectiveness. As Deputy County Administrator, Ms. Younger will be charged with a broad range of organizational development and management responsibilities, to include strategic planning and implementation, establishing performance measures and processes for monitoring outcomes, overseeing Public Safety/Alternatives-to-Incarceration initiatives, and fostering a progressive, forward-thinking organizational "climate."

Shawn, in her 6 years as Director of Human Rights, has built a program that works closely with other departments and the broader community to assure that timely and meticulous services are available to all. In addition, she has proven her leadership through her fine work with the County's Diversity initiatives. She will allocate 60% of her time to continuing her leadership with the Human Rights program and focus her remaining time on building the County's Diversity initiatives, overseeing contracts compliance, developing plans for emergencies and establishing management cabinets and data sharing protocols.

Thank you Tim Joseph, Schelley Michell-Nunn (City of Ithaca), Travis Brooks (GIAC), David Squires, Anita Fitzpatrick, Patricia Carey and Norma Jayne for your diligent and insightful work on the search team. Your care, wisdom and thoughtfulness with this difficult process is deeply appreciated.

I also have the pleasure of announcing the appointment of Marcia E. Lynch as Public Information Officer. Marcia has worked in media relations and broadcasting for over 25 years. For those of you who are long-time county residents, you may remember Marcia from her radio days at WVBR and WTKO as well as from her work with the City of Ithaca Fire Department.

Thank you to the PIO search team, Martha Robertson, Simeon Moss (Cornell), Larry Roberts (FLIC), Nancy Zahler, Alice Cole, Jackie Kippola, and Jovan Grogan, for your thorough and painstaking work. Your conscientious attention to a careful process was enormously important.

Finally, I would like to recognize the efforts of our Cornell interns, Jovan Grogan, Kimberly Cutright and Anastasiya Sidorova, who have contributed greatly to Administration's support efforts. Although they are all extraordinary, I want to give special recognize to Mr. Grogan, the organizer and leader of the intern team, for his exceptional work and delightful character. Having now completed his Masters at Cornell, Jovan will be returning to California in July. Jovan, your work was exceptional and your spirit delightful-we will miss you greatly and wish you the very best. Please keep in touch.

-Steve Whicher

Annual Employee Blood Drive - Mark Your Calendar...

By Cheryl Nelson and Jackie Kippola, Co-Sponsors



The annual employee blood drive will be held on Thursday, August 10th from 9 AM – 3 PM in the Library's Borg Warner Room. Watch for more information on signing up to donate from your building representative.

Remember, up to three individuals can benefit from one unit of donated blood. Each unit donated is vitally important, especially during the summer months when the need is high. If you are able, please plan to sign up as a donor. If you are unable to donate, there are other volunteer positions available throughout the day for registration and canteen workers.

Donating takes about one hour. Please remember to check with your supervisor to get approval for your time. A reminder, if you are donating, please be sure to drink lots of fluids, eat breakfast, and bring proof of identification.

A Message from the *Retired* King Houston

Greetings from Arizona,

As I was sitting on my porch this morning enjoying my coffee, I realized that my life hasn't changed all that much since I left the county.

In ITS, we always had several projects going simultaneously. There were frequent critical decisions to be made and occasional crises to be dealt with. I still have to contend with the same things.

Take today, for example. I had to choose which shorts and T-shirt to wear. This may sound simple, but there are many factors to consider. Today is supposed to be around 100 degrees so comfort is paramount. I also had to evaluate our schedule for the day and contemplate whether we would be inside or out for the majority of the day. This was before I could even get dressed.

We narrowly averted a crisis the other day. We almost ran out of cat food. The plan we made to resolve the affair was a little complicated. We decided to make a day of it. We drove over the mountains to Prescott, shopped and did a few errands, ate dinner, and decided to stay and gamble at the casino for a while. It got a little late, so we decided to stay the night and wander back the next day. The cats got their food, so it worked well.

Seriously, there has been enough work here to keep us busy since we arrived. We had to get unpacked and organized, buy new furniture, get a lot of little stuff fixed on the house and get the back yard landscaping done. There was also a lot of administrative stuff to do. Address changes, utilities, driver's license and registrations.

We do miss our family, our friends, and our co-workers in Ithaca, but we are making friends and getting involved in the community out here. But in the evening, while I sit outside and watch the moon and more stars than I knew existed; I don't miss the weather.

2006 EVENT SCHEDULE

(Sponsored by the Vending Committee)

Niagara Falls, Canada, & Marineland

When: Saturday, July 29th

Cost: Marineland - \$30.00/pp (\$15.00 - ages 4 and under)

Cost: Niagara Falls - \$15.00/pp - Bus only for those wishing to go to the falls or casino for the day.

Minimum of 40 people needed to make this trip possible.

Reservations: *Accepted through July 14th.*

Hangar Theatre's "Hello Dolly" - a delightful musical comedy - good for the whole family!

When: Sunday, August 20th

Time: 2:00 p.m., matinee performance

Cost: \$10.00/pp

Reservations: *Accepted through August 4th*

Only 40 tickets available, and no plans to order extra tickets. Don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seats!

New York City Winter Day Trip

When: Saturday, December 9th

Cost: \$30.00/pp

Leave: 7:00 a.m. SHARP! (from the Tompkins County Highway Department Facility on Bostwick Road)

Arrive: Around noon, at Radio City Music Hall (50th St. and Ave. of the Americas) **or** Macy's (34th St. and 7th Ave.). You're on your own to explore the vast and exciting city.

Departure: From Radio City Music Hall at 8:00 p.m.

Arrive: Back in Ithaca around midnight.

Minimum of 40 people needed to make this trip possible. Call now for reservations or for additional information.

Reservations: *Accepted through November 2nd.*

Considering Buffalo Bills Game...

Interested in attending a Buffalo Bills football game this fall. A minimum of 40 people would be needed to make this trip possible, with a deposit required at sign-up. Contact Patty Stamm, 274-6674.

Something to think about...

The commissions from vending machines help to subsidize our trips and activities. In addition, the Vending Committee helps to fund memorials and appliance purchases, as well as providing \$5.00 per employee per year to be used for parties, picnics, etc. Commissions are needed. Meetings are held once every two or three months, for about an hour. For more information or to suggest a commissioner, please contact:

Patty Stamm at the Health Department, 274-6674.

Pilot Bus Pass Project

(continued from page 1)

Pilot Project Details:

- Only Tompkins County employees are eligible.
- Bus passes apply only to TCAT buses and are to be used for commuting to and from work.
- If you currently have a bus pass or coupons issued by the Budget and Finance Office, please return them to Personnel when requesting the new pass.
- CSEA employees who work in downtown complexes and currently receive reimbursement for a bus pass from an alternate bus service provider will continue to be reimbursed at the current TCAT monthly rate.
- For information on bus routes, schedules, and locations of Park & Rides locations, go to www.tcatbus.com or call (607) 277-RIDE.

Questions? Please contact Personnel at 274-5526.

KUDOS Korner

Kudos to all County employees from Weights and Measures, Highway, Facilities, and Solid Waste who were involved (behind the scenes and participants) in the 2nd Annual Careers in Construction Day, held on May 2nd at The Field in Lansing.

The event was attended by close to 680 students and chaperones from the following: Built on Pride, Candor High School, Cortland High School, Cortland Youth Bureau, Dryden High School, George Junior Republic, Groton High School, Homer High School, Ithaca City High School, Lansing High School, Newfield High School, OCM BOCES, TS-T BOCES (including the Smith Building), T-S-T Community School, and Trumansburg High School. The event was well-received by all who attended.

TONY RUDY, A.A.E.



On Sunday April 23, 2006, Tony Rudy, Assistant Airport Manager at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport passed the third and final phase of the rigorous Association of American Airport Executives (AAAE) exam to become an Accredited Airport Executive. To become accredited candidates must:

- Pass a 180-question written exam;
- Write a management research paper of 30-50 pages for the AAAE Library that provides guidance in dealing with a unique aspect of airport management or operations; and
- Undergo a 2-hour oral examination by a panel of airport executives dealing with all aspects of airport management and operations. This panel covers Planning & Engineering, Operations & Maintenance, Communications & Marketing, and Finance & Administration.

Typically, the accreditation process takes between three and five years. This is a highly regarded achievement within the national airport community. Currently there are approximately 350 accredited airport executives in the country including just 3 (now 4) in New York State.

Submit kudos articles to Geri Lockwood at glockwood@tompkins-co.org.

DSS Personnel Changes

(continued from page 1)

The Front Desk Reception duties were reorganized to better meet the need of our clients. The goal is to have expedited services and streamlined processes. Denise Sanders and Suzanne Hillman are moving to the Front End Unit at the Front Desk as Examiners on May 1st.

Other folks in the Agency that are making a difference in the Department of Social Service and the public are:

Mary Rounds coordinated DSS workers for a walk at Stewart Park for the Arthritis Foundation on Saturday, May 6th. Twenty-one folks signed up for the walk because of Mary's encouragement. The group's name was "The Angels." The weather was not very pleasant with the cold, rain, and wind, but it didn't stop them.

Betty Streeter has coordinated a salad luncheon once a week. Anyone in the Department of Social Services can contribute a salad item and join the luncheon. One week was themed Toss Salad, followed by Taco Salad, and Fruit Salad.

Edie Spaulding enjoys gardening in her spare time and grows a large plot of Daffodils, Roses, Lilacs, and Day Lilies of assorted colors, which she brings in for the DSS clients and co-workers to enjoy. She frequently makes beautifully decorated cakes and other sweets to share.

Every year Tricia Eth and Sherry Carmon do a DSS second floor eligibility luncheon or breakfast with a new annual theme.

Martin L. Adams*
Vicky L. Ahola
John M. Andersson
Annette S. Andrews*
Margaret M. Arcangeli
Audrey J. Balandier
Maryanne M. Banks
John P. Beach*
Steven H. Bieler*
Karen Bishop
Marjorie Boykin*
Elizabeth R. Bosman
Joan E. Brock*
Jean Brockway
Carl D. Burgess*
Shirley Burun*
Rebecca Bush*
Sharon Campbell*
Michael E. Carlisle*
Sherry L. Carmon
Philip Chaffee*
David A. Chase
James N. Clasby*
Jean Clemons*
Peter Coats
Cheryl Conover*
Donald J. Culligan*
Harris B. Dates*
Barbara Davies
John Davis*
Arthur D. Dawson*
Michael Day*
Sharon L. Dean

25-Year Club Members

Anthony B. DeLuca*	Margaret Kopsa*	Linda Pealo
Mark R. Dresser	Nancy Jo Krebs*	Manuel Posso*
Brian Earle	Lori W. LaFave	Debra A. Reid
Patricia S. Eth	Lawrence LaPlant*	Ann S. Rider*
Hazel Eva*	John R. Lampman	Michael F. Rogers
Donna D. Evershed*	Donald G. Lawson*	Terry A. Royce
Richard J. Ewald	Elizabeth E. Loiselle*	Mark Scorelle
Julia E. Ferris	Joseph B. Longo*	Joan P. Sheffield*
Anita M. Fitzpatrick	Zoltan Lovey*	Gary F. Shippos*
Carol A. Franco	Robert Mabey*	Elicia J. Spencer
Patricia Galbraith	John A. MacLean*	Patricia A. Stamm*
Clara Goodman*	Scott C. McCown	Raymond J. Stark*
Denise Green	Louise McEwen*	Cynthia L. Stillwell
Stuart A. Grinnell	Yvonne M. McGinnis	Richard A. Stoughton*
Emery B. Guest*	Penny F. McGuire	James W. Strehle
Duane Van Hartman*	Dwight E. Mengel	Deborah Kay Strite
Harold J. Herman*	Ted Merritt*	Christine Strizack
Paula J. Herman	Edward Mikula*	David Tanner*
James Hill*	John Miller*	Gary M. Teeter*
Robert J. Hillick*	Judith R. Miller*	Carleton Thall*
Bridie Hockenberry*	Harry Missirian*	Linda Thayer*
Deborah Lee Horton	William J. Mobbs*	Michael P. Totman
Robert L. Howard*	Anna Moses*	Carla A. Trenchard
Phyllis B. Howell*	John E. Navarro	Judy L. Tynyk*
Lois I. Hulbert	Cheryl Ann Nelson	Roger E. Vargo*
Ward Hungerford*	Faith Newkirk-Harris	Lawrence Ward*
Hugh G. Hurlbut*	James R. Niemi	Thomas A. Weber Jr.
Richard R. Jackson	Calvin Nobles, Jr. *	Ernestine Wright
Beth Jenkins*	Jeffrey E. Norman*	Bernice A. Yarosh
Susan D. Jones	Ronald E. Ostrander	Jean Yaw*
Rebecca J. Kafka	Leroy Parks*	Jacqueline K. Yoder*
Shirley M. Kane	John E. Payne*	Nancy B. Zahler
Edward A. Kellogg	Thomas G. Payne*	*Retired



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

CSEA Local 855 2006 Employee Recognition Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 19th

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Stewart Park

(Registration forms to be mailed at a later date)

Baby Announcements

Parents: Leslyn McBean-Clairborne & J.R. Clairborne
Baby: Indira Martine Clairborne, March 10, 2006

Grandparents: Iretta & Don Ellis
Baby: CJ, April 30, 2006

Grandparents: Geri & Albert Lockwood
Baby: Sharla Elizabeth Lockwood, May 25, 2006

Airport's Anniversary

(continued from page 1)

There was even a *verbal* lease for a dwelling house at No. 38 Sapsucker Woods Road. A certain Major W. Coburn "was told he could occupy the premises until June 1957."

Amazingly, the Mohawk administration building and some of the old hangars still stand, awaiting a wrecking ball as soon as Phase III of Taughannock Aviation's redevelopment program is complete. As you might expect, in the 50 years of County ownership the airport has seen several major development projects. These include a runway extension in 1993, the creation of the new terminal complex in 1994, and the undertaking of two of the three phases for a new general aviation facility. All told over \$25 million (mostly federal funds) has been spent on these improvements. It is also noteworthy that during the five-decade period there have only been three airport managers.

Finally, you may be interested to know that fifty years ago when the County was buying the airport for \$324,500, the average income was \$4,454, a Ford car could be purchased for \$1,748, the average house cost \$22,000, a postage stamp was \$0.03, a 6-pack of Rheingold Beer (12 oz. size) was \$1.20, and most depressing of all, gas was \$0.23 a gallon.

Employee Spotlight



Meet Ida “P-Nut” Besemer who has worked for Facilities since December 2005, as a Temporary Cleaner at Solid Waste and the Public Works Facility. She has worked for the County off and on for three years, with two years as a Seasonal Worker for the Highway Division.

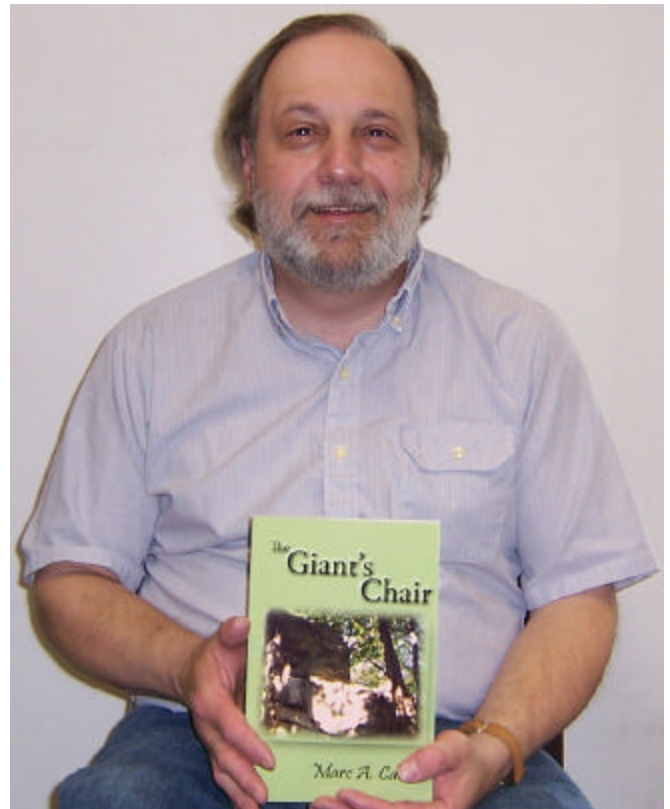
She likes the pay and enjoys the people, but prefers being outside in the summer. Outside work interests are her 54 animals. She has two dogs, Sadie and Sissy (Sissy recently added a large addition to the “family” with her 10 new “rotty” puppies). She’s had one African Grey Parrot, Cosmo, for 10 years. Cosmo says, “Good morning, Mama,” to her in the morning before she leaves for work. She also has three roosters and 38 baby chickens, all of which wear “very colorful ankle bracelets.” She says, “I treat my chickens just like my dogs, they are all my pets. I wouldn’t get rid of, or eat, any of them. I love them all.”

The first thing she would do if she ran the world would be “fire the person that hired me, not a good move” (she has quite a sense of humor, and keeps everyone on their toes). She would actually take a week off and not have it deducted from her paycheck. Then, she would head for Las Vegas. She would also “put the world on hold.”

Marc Catone is a receptionist for the Solid Waste Management Division and has worked there for 6 years. His duties are to answer questions that relate to recycling and garbage, and sell solid waste permits and disposal coupons. Marc’s favorite part of the job is knowing that the Solid Waste Division makes a difference in protecting the environment in Tompkins County. His least-liked part of the job are grumpy customers.

His outside interests are reading, writing and listening to music. If he ran the world, the first thing he would do is “issue a decree to make the combination of ketchup on a hot dog against the law.”

Marc has written two very popular books. He is the author of “As I Write this Letter.” It is a story of an American Generation remembering The Beatles. He has just published his second book, “The Giant’s Chair,” a fictional book based heavily on Marc’s life. It takes place during the 1960’s. His latest book can be found on Amazon.com. I am sure Marc is not finishing writing and we will see another book from him in the future.



Employee Spotlight, continued...



Fran Armstrong is the payroll coordinator for the Comptroller's office and has worked there for 22 years this month. During her 22 years, she has held various positions – typist, account clerk, payroll clerk and now payroll coordinator. Her current duties are entering in time cards, printing checks, producing government reports, maintaining and balance payroll records, as well as performing research for the retirement system. Her favorite parts of the job are working with figures, making things balance out and helping employees with their questions. She also likes it when a difficult project comes together. The least-liked part of her job is the politics. Her outside interests are golf, crocheting, knitting, traveling, and spending time with her husband, kids, grandkids and family. If she ran the world, the first thing she would do is “make healthcare available to everyone and try to make life easier for the elderly so they wouldn't lose everything if they became ill and couldn't take care of themselves.”

Ron Schoneman, TC Mental Health Forensic Unit

Employee Fitness Spotlight Interview

1. When did you start your fitness program and why?

I started exercising in 1982. I have always played softball and baseball. During the summer of 82, I played softball four nights a week. I was also smoking 1 1/2 packs of cigarettes per day.

I wanted to quit. With the help of friends, I did. I also knew that once ball season was over, smoking could become an issue. I then took up running. Running kept the weight off. Later I joined a fitness club at Clinton Plaza. This went out of business and I joined another for a while. Now, I continue to work out and run at least 4 times a week. It helps relieve stress, keeps the weight off and has helped with strength, especially as I age.

2. What is your favorite form of exercise and why?

My two favorite forms of exercise are running and playing softball during the summer. I run year round. However, my knee is starting to rebel. Now I'm looking for alternatives to running that do not stress the knees as much. I continue to exercise for the same reasons I started to exercise 24 years ago.

3. Have you noticed any benefit from your activity and what are they?

The benefits are many. They include maintaining a low heart rate, usually between 48 and 54 heartbeats per minute. My blood pressure is normal, my body weight is stable (except for the winter weight), my health is good (I have a family history of diabetes, cancer and heart disease), my strength has improved and I have an overall feeling of being well.

4. What inspires you to continue your fitness program?

Inspiration is seeing the benefit --physical and emotional-- of a fitness program.

5. If you were asked for a statement about health what would it be?

To quote an old saying, “If I knew that I was going to live this long, I would have taken better care of myself.” This seems to apply to most of us. I never realized the importance of eating properly, exercising, and getting enough rest until my early 30's. Then, I made many changes concerning my health. I believe that I have benefited from those changes. If I had continued to smoke as much as I did 24 years ago, I'm sure I would be dealing with a multitude of medical complications. Now, health and fitness are important to me.

Department News

Department of Emergency Response

The following is an excerpt from an article published in the *Ithaca Journal*, April 14, 2006, submitted by Lin Hurd

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week was April 9 – 15, 2006. The Tompkins County 911 Center, located in the new Department of Emergency Response facility adjacent to the airport on Brown Road, employs 20 full-time Emergency Services Dispatchers. They provide dispatch services for eight police agencies, 18 fire and rescue agencies, and five ambulance services. They answer approximately 14,000 calls per month, including 911, wireless, non-emergency, and administrative lines, and they dispatch emergency responders to approximately 4000 calls per month.

Dispatchers connect with the anxious conversations of terrified victims, angry informants, suicidal citizens, and apprehensive responders. They are the calming influence for all of them - the quiet, competent voices in the night that provide the pillars for the bridges of sanity and safety. They must gather information from highly agitated people who can't remember where they live, what their name is, where they are, or what they just saw. And then, they are to calmly provide all that information to the officers, firefighters, or paramedics without error the first time and every time.

Dispatchers are expected to be able to do five things at once-and do them well. While questioning a frantic caller, they must type the information into a computer, tip off another dispatcher, put another caller on hold, and run a license plate for an officer. To miss the plate number may raise the officer's ire; to miss the caller's information may endanger the same officer's life.

Dispatchers have two constant companions, other dispatchers and stress. They depend on one, and try to ignore the other. They are chastened by upset callers, taken for granted by the public, and questioned by the field units. The rewards they get are inexpensive and infrequent, except for the satisfaction they feel at the end of a shift, having done what they were expected to do. They are people who were selected in a difficult hiring process to do a nearly impossible job. They are as different and unique as fingerprints, but they have one thing in common: they care about people, and they enjoy being the lifeline of society-that steady voice in a storm-the one who knows how to handle every emergency, and do it with style and grace, integrity and competence.

Dispatchers play many roles: therapist, doctor, lawyer, teacher, weatherman, guidance counselor, psychologist, priest, secretary, supervisor, politician, and reporter. And few people must jump through the emotional hoops on the trip through the joy of one caller's new baby, the terror of a house fire, the fear of another caller's burglary in progress, the anger of a neighbor blocked in their driveway, and back to the new baby caller, all in a two-minute time frame. The emotional rollercoaster rolls to a stop after an eight-hour shift, and they are expected to walk out to their cars with steady feet and no queasiness in their stomach-because they are dispatchers. If they hold it in, they are too closed. If they talk about it, they are labeled a whiner. If it bothers them, it adds more stress. If it doesn't, they question themselves, wondering why.



Department of Social Services

Foster Care/Adoption Informational Meetings

Submitted by Ellie Arnold

To anyone who may be considering becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent and wants more information, Tompkins County Department of Social Services will hold informational meetings at the Human Services Building, Room 142, 320 W. State St., Ithaca, NY on July 13 and August 10, 2006. (These informational meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of the month.) Tompkins County especially needs homes in the Ithaca City School District and for teenagers.

Please call 274-5266 for more information.

Department News, *continued...*

Department of Personnel

Diversity & Inclusion

By Heather Stewart

You may have heard that DIVERSITY and INCLUSION have become priorities for Tompkins County. So what does that really mean? It means that the County has renewed its commitment to recognizing, respecting, learning about and learning from the differences and similarities each individual brings to the work of Tompkins County government. It also means taking appropriate measures to recruit, hire and retain employees who add to the diversity of the organization.

We all contribute to diversity because each of us is unique – but an organization comprised of all one race or gender is not as diverse as one that includes both men and women with varying racial and ethnic backgrounds. Race, nationality, gender, age, perceived or real sexual identity or preference, ability/disability, veteran status, educational background and socio-economic status are among many factors that contribute to diversity. Other characteristics such as being extremely organized or having a wonderful sense of humor also contribute to diversity – but to a lesser degree.

A workforce is made stronger by including different types of people who bring with them different perspectives, ideas, and knowledge to meet a common goal. We should applaud the initial steps the County has taken to meet its mission in having the composition of its employees reflect the communities it serves. Those initial steps include:

- The establishment of the Workforce Diversity & Inclusion Committee (WDIC) (chaired by Legislator Leslyn McBean-Clairborne) – a committee of employees, community members, legislators, diversity professionals and other interested parties.
- Charging the WDIC to develop a draft diversity and inclusion plan for the County.
- Charging The Management Team, County Administrator, and the Commissioner of Personnel to work together to create a Workforce Diversity Plan that will eventually work in conjunction with the Diversity and Inclusion Plan, but is utilized for new hires, lateral moves and promotions.
- Maintaining active membership in the Diversity Consortium of Tompkins County – an organization whose mission is to be a catalyst to enhance awareness, networking, support and best practices of diversity and its benefits as an essential part of organizational success. Its primary objectives are to cultivate a continuous learning environment, promote a positive community image, and to serve as a liaison for diversity resources.
- The approval of a County Diversity Statement

Tompkins County Diversity Statement*

Tompkins County government is committed to creating a diverse and fully inclusive workplace that strengthens our organization and enhances our ability to adapt to change by developing and maintaining: an organization-wide understanding and acceptance of the purpose and reasons for diversity; recruitment and retention policies that assure a diverse workforce; a workplace environment that is welcoming and supportive of all; awareness, understanding, and education regarding diversity issues; zero tolerance for expressions of discrimination, bias, harassment, or negative stereotyping toward any person or group; and a workforce ethic that embraces diversity and makes it the norm for all interactions, including delivery of services to the public.

*Unanimously adopted by the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee June 22, 2005. Unanimously approved by the Tompkins County Legislature, July 5, 2005.

We are very excited about this process and need the input and cooperation of everyone. If you are interested or have any ideas to share please do not hesitate to contact Heather Stewart, Tompkins County Personnel at 274-5526.

Appointments

Administration

Administration welcomes Doreen Lauper back to County Government. In April, Doreen accepted a Secretary position in Administration. Prior to this position, Doreen worked in Assigned Counsel for 13 years before her departure in 2003.

Assessment

The Department of Assessment is pleased to announce the permanent addition of Jaycee Smith to its staff. Jaycee will serve as a Receptionist for this department.

DMV

Roxanne Iacovelli has been appointed to Motor Vehicle Bureau Supervisor, replacing Penny McGuire, who retired after 22 years in the position. Roxanne has 11+ years of DMV experience. More recently, for the past 6 1/2 years, she was a Personnel Assistant in the Personnel Department.

Highway

Tompkins County Highway welcomes Kurt Kvasny, Civil Engineer, who joined our division on May 1st.

Facilities

Facilities welcomes Mike Merchant, HVAC, who joined our division on May 1st.

Department News, *continued...*

Highway Highlights...

By Geri Lockwood

Summer Road Projects:

The summer road repair/reconstruction schedule is tentatively complete. However, oil prices will affect the completion of the entire schedule. The roads planned for major repair/reconstruction are listed on the website, <http://www.tompkins-co.org/highway/>, which is updated on a monthly basis.

The tentative summer projects schedule for Tompkins County Highway includes Black Oak Road, Iradell Road, Sheldon Road, etc. For a complete listing of road and/or bridge projects and closings, as well as scheduled public meetings regarding major projects, please visit our website.

One of our crews has completed replacing road crossing culvert pipes and all related drainage on Lansingville Road. The road resurfacing will be scheduled for a later date.

McLean-Cortland Road reconstruction, from Gulf Hill Road to the section that was reconstructed in 2003 (approximately ½ mile from the Cortland County line), is underway. Suit Kote Corporation is the contractor for this project.

Please use extreme caution when traveling through work zones, and adhere to work zone speed limits. Thank you for helping to keep our workers safe!

Is It Paint, or...Is It Not?

The "painted" stop bars, arrows, etc., on County roads are sometimes a thermoplastic material, impregnated with glass beads throughout for retro-reflectivity. The material is 90-120 mils thick; depending on what product is used. This material is normally applied with a torch, which bonds it to the asphalt surface.

DMV & County Clerk Bid Farewell to

Penny McGuire, Sandy Lacko & Jo Ann Ray

Penny McGuire, the Motor Vehicle Bureau Supervisor retired May 19th from the Motor Vehicles Department. Penny worked at DMV for 28 years. During 22 of those years, Penny served as the supervisor. Sandy Lacko on retired April 28th after 20 years as a Motor Vehicle Examiner with the DMV. They both intend to spend more time with their families, especially their grandchildren.

At the County Clerk's Office, Jo Ann Ray retired on May 12th after 16 years as a Senior Recording Clerk. She and her husband are relocating to Kentucky to enjoy a fairer climate. Good luck and best wishes to them!

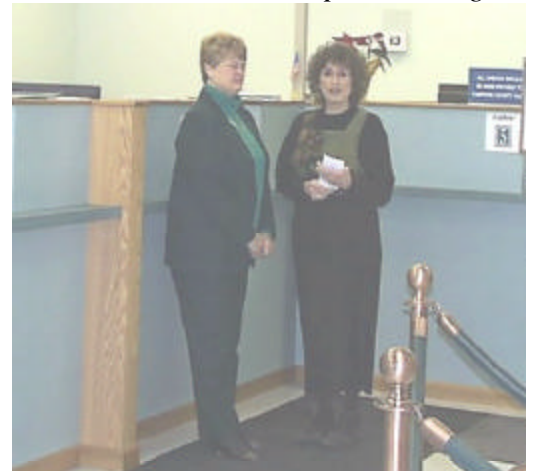


Don't stand in line at the DMV!

County Employees,

The County Clerk will accept renewal applications, etc., via **inter-office mail** and return the completed product in the same manner. The County Clerk needs your business, as we do not obtain any remuneration from NYS unless the work is processed through the local office. Our office supports itself by retaining 12.7% of all gross funds received, however, transactions mailed to Albany or completed on-line provide no local support. Please support your local DMV and help keep our tax dollars here, not in Albany.

Contact: avalenti@tompkins-co.org.



Environmental Health Department

Rabies – What you should know...

For information regarding rabies, and for the rabies clinic schedule, please go to www.tompkins-co.org/health/eh/index.htm#rabies

*Contact: Frank Chase, Public Sanitarian
274-6688.*

Department News, *continued...*

TOMPKINS COUNTY WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PRESENTS:

THE CONSUMER'S CORNER

Materials Provided By: NEW YORK STATE WEIGHTS & MEASURES ASSOCIATION
and THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

GUIDE TO BETTER BUYING

- Look for the official seal on weighing and measuring devices. It indicates that the device has been tested and approved by your local Director of Weights and Measures.
- Make sure the scale reads zero before the commodity is placed on the scale and watch the indicator when the weight is being determined.
- Make use of the customer scale; it is there for your convenience. Compare the labeled weight and value with the scale indicator.
- Commodities sold by weight must be sold by net weight. Net weight is the actual weight of the commodity, exclusive of the weight of the wrapper or container.
- If you have reason to believe you did not get correct weight or measure, contact your local Director of Weights and Measures immediately. He/She will be more than pleased to assist you.

IT IS THE LAW

- All weighing and measuring devices (gas pumps, scales, fuel oil meters, measuring containers, etc.) must be examined for type approval before they can be sold or used in New York State.
- All weighing and measuring devices used commercially in New York State must be tested at least once annually by your local Director of Weights and Measures.
- All weighing and measuring devices that fail to conform with official standards shall be condemned.
- All commodities must be sold by net weight, standard measure or numerical count.
- All commodity containers must bear a plain and conspicuous statement of the net quantity of the contents.
- Scales used in over-the-counter purchases must be in plain view of the customer.
- All food or food products which are packaged or wrapped by the retailer in advance of being exposed or offered for sale by the retailer shall be accurately marked with (a) the net weight, standard measure or numerical count; (b) the selling price per pound or unit of standard measure and (c) the total selling price.
- Whenever food or food products are packaged or wrapped by the retailer in advance of being exposed or offered for sale, an accurate computing scale must be easily accessible to customers. A prominent and conspicuous sign reading "for customer use" shall be displayed on or near such scale.

The above sections of the Law are for your protection. You can help make them more effective by reporting any violations to your local Director of Weights and Measures.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IS CONSUMER PROTECTION!

Classified Ads

Free - Domestic geese, white and grey/white. All ages. We have way too many! Please call 564-7517 - evenings.

Free - 2 sets of used un-insulated primed steel overhead garage doors - have windows and raised paneled styling - no dents, no rust, very good to excellent condition when they were taken down - comes with rails and hanging hardware - all in excellent condition - stored meticulously - wrapped up tightly, so you'll have to take them "as is" - all wrapped up. Contact Mary Harper: messages: 607-351-3900 or Email: mhlee@twcny.rr.com.

Free! - Vinyl siding. Light blue. We have removed the vinyl siding from our large house and would rather give it away than throw it away. Actual quantity is hard to estimate, but probably at least 1,500 feet. Would be ideal to use for a shed or other out building. Email: tedschiele@yahoo.com.

NIC'S KIDS FUNCARE - Licensed Home Daycare. Trained First Aid / CPR / MAT (medicine administering). Groton schools. Call Nicole at (607) 898-5976.

Reasonable Rates - for brush hogging, backhoe work, field mowing, stonewalls, patios & sidewalks, deliver gravel & dirt, and other odds & ends. Call Bill 659-3320.



Dog Dayz Inn
A place where your
dog feels "at home"
Located in North Lansing
Sandy Strehle
315-497-3467

dogdayzinn@yahoo.com
www.dogdayzinn.com

For Sale: 1988 Class C Jayco Motor home. Excellent shape. Runs great. Call 838-3021 after 5 pm.

Dyer Construction - The Decking Specialist

*Decks *Roofing *Sheds *Siding *Porches *Pole barns
*Kitchens/baths *Replacement Windows *General carpentry Call:
(607) 589-6156 or (607) 279-7971

Wanted: Used trumpet for a beginner. Please contact Sara @ (315) 252-7928.

For Sale: Large stainless steel rabbit or animal cage with feeder and water receptacles. \$45.00 firm. Call (607) 257-1643 after 5pm asking for Edie.

Aluminum Rims (4) Ex. Cond., will fit Honda Accord DX, and Honda Civic Hatchback. Size 5 1/2" by 14" from 1989 Acura Legend, safety lock on center cap for security. Great for winter snows. Asking \$200.00 for all 4, digital photos available, call 607-836-6136 evenings, or Email: rpb2@cornell.edu.

Antique Sofa - Madison Empire, 7' long, standard height, rose carvings, horsehair stuffing and springs, wood is in gorgeous condition, constructed of rosewood and walnut, new fabric in the 1950's - mouse damage to fabric on seat, digital photos available. Asking \$800, call 607-836-6136 evenings, or Email: rpb2@cornell.edu.

Antique Victorian Bedroom Suite - Exc. Cond. - Ornate overlays on all pieces, Headboard, footboard, sideboards, Ladies dresser w/ mirror, and Chest of drawers and Nightstand. Nearly new mattress set also available. Digital photos available, Asking \$700 for all, call 607-836-6136 evenings, or Email rpb2@cornell.edu.

Home Interiors and Gifts, and Better Homes and Gardens line of interior decorating products for sale. To view the complete line visit www.homeinteriors.com

No shipping and handling, free delivery, order direct, or hold a party and earn free products. Bridal registries available. For more information, call or Email Rayne Butler at 607-836-6136 or rpb2@cornell.edu.

For Sale: 23 ft. Nomad pull camper, excellent condition, shower, bath, refrigerator, oven, air conditioning, heater, good tires, plus many extras. \$5,000 firm. cas8@cornell.edu or 607 279-7718.

For Sale: Rotweiller Puppies: Six males, four females, born 4/19/06, will be ready 6/14/06. \$250 each, \$50 deposit will hold puppy. Contact Peanut at 279-3806 or 279-0615.

Horse Training Aids - Leather draw reins with brass pulleys, Ex. used once, new \$44.95, asking \$35.00. Nylon lunging attachment, clips on each side of bit or halter w/ large center ring to attach lunge line-new, never used-asking \$5.00. Call 607-836-6136 evenings, or Email rpb2@cornell.edu.

For Sale: Sega Genesis game system, 2 hand controllers, 1 joystick controller, 10 games. \$40. Call Theresa @ 277-6326.

Classified Ads, continued...

Starcraft Supersport Boat 1977 - 18', well maintained, 120hp OMC I/O, only 690 hrs., open bow w/ walk through windshield, needs new canvas. Includes heavy duty, E-Z Load trailer. Interphase fish finder & 2 Canon down-riggers also available, \$2500 takes it all. Digital photos available, call 607-836-6136 evenings, or Email rpb2@cornell.edu.



Shared Living Quarters: 6-person coop close to Cornell & Commons, furnished, shared meals, laundry, on bus route. \$370 inc. heat. Aug 1st - 256-7206.

Arbonne International - A true health and wellness company specializing in 100% pure, safe and beneficial products. Try it before you buy it ... nutrition, skin care, aromatherapy, weight loss, cosmetics. Please call Karen Cornell at 607-347-6567 or Email kdavis100@twcnny.rr.com.

For Sale: One "Temperpedic" mattress top, queen size. You pick-up. Willing to include queen mattress and box springs too. All for the low price of \$100.00 (OBO). (Original price of top was \$800.00, used one year. Call 607-351-0221.

For Sale: Harmon Magnafire Series Coal Stove. Door glass and brass trim kit. Able to generate up to 80,000 BTUs and burn for over 24 hours. Up to 2,000 sq ft heating capacity. Over \$1,500 new - asking \$500. Call Jim after 4:00 PM weekdays or weekends @ 387-9394.

For Sale: 2003 Honda XR100R Off-Road Motorcycle. Like new - well cared for. New around \$1,600 - asking \$1,200. Jim after 4:00 PM weekdays or weekends @ 387-9394.

For Sale: 1987 19' Prowler Lynx Pull Behind Camper - \$3200. Awning - new tires - refrigerator/freezer - stove/oven - sink bunk/storage table/bed - couch/bed - tub/shower, sink, toilet. Call 387-6862.

For Sale: Solid Oak Curio Cabinet - 25"w x 14"d x 76"h - Recessed dome light - side door - 8 adjustable shelves - Plate glass mirror back - Price is \$ 400.00. If interested call 607-589-6041.

For Sale: Lane recliner - forest green, 2 years old. Rarely used and in excellent condition. \$200.00 Call (607) 342-5652.

For Sale: Petra Lingerie overstock. Sizes ranging from small to xLarge. Too many to list all. Great discount prices. Call (607) 257-1643 after 5pm askfor Edie.

For Sale: Petra Fashion lingerie at discounted prices of overstock. Too many items to list and sizes ranging from small to 1X. Petra sold out to Pure Romance, so call now (607) 257-1643 after 5PM. Also, professional show rabbit cage for sale. \$25 firm.

Free!: A loving dog needs a loving home. Nala, 10yrs, 43lbs, yellow lab mix. Home-trained, has all shots, and medical history available. Loves to play, give and needed attention. Call (917) 204-4871 or email jdg32@cornell.edu for more info.



Forward classified ads to Maureen Reynolds at the Office of the County Clerk, mreynolds@tompkins-co.org.

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THE CORRIDORS TEAM

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Multicultural Editor - Open

Advising Editor, Page Layout

Jovan Grogan, Public Information

Contributors

All County Employees and Retirees



FUNNY BONES

My kindergarten-aged daughter suddenly announced just before school that she needed to take a clean tee shirt to class. She told us the teacher was going to iron an anti-drug message on it. My wife frantically swept through my daughter's room, finding nothing usable but one tee shirt that already had something printed on one side. She sent it off to school with my daughter.

That afternoon, my daughter returned and happily showed off her shirt. On one side it said, "Families are Forever." And on the other, "Be Smart, Don't Start."